

Stated Meeting, October 18.

Present, fifteen members.

Dr. PATTERSON, President, in the Chair.

A letter was read:—

From Edward Gaskill, dated Philadelphia, 10th October, 1850, proposing to sell to the Society a copy of the Natural History of the State of New York.

The following donations were announced:—

FOR THE LIBRARY.

Recherches sur les Organes de la Circulation, de la Digestion, et de la Respiration des Animaux Infusoires. Par M. F. Pouchet, Prof. de Zoologie au Museum d'Histoire Naturelle de Rouen, &c. &c. (Comptes Rendus, Nov. 13, 1848, et Jan. 15, 1849.) Paris. 4to.—*From the Author.*

The American Journal of the Medical Sciences. No. 40. New Series. Oct. 1850. Philadelphia. 8vo.—*From Dr. Isaac Hays, Editor.*

The Medical News and Library. Vol. VIII. No. 94. Oct. 1850. Philadelphia. 8vo.—*From Lea & Blanchard.*

The African Repository. Vol. XXVI. No. 10. Oct. 1850. Washington. 8vo.—*From the American Colonization Society.*

FOR THE CABINET.

A Polygraph, or Writing Machine, formerly belonging to, and used by Thomas Jefferson.—*From N. P. Trist, Esq.*

There being no sufficient quorum present, the stated business of the evening, the election of new members, was not proceeded with.

A brief account was given by Mr. Cresson of the accidental falling of a part of a large Telescopic Gasholder at the City Gas Works.

The accident occurred to the outer section which had just been completed, and was at the moment being lowered into its place in the tank; it was suspended by six purchases of heavy pulley blocks and falls, secured to the top of the section by twelve hooks of round iron,

1½ inches in diameter, from the want of proper arrangement on the part of the riggers for securing the regular and equal lowering at all points of suspension, an excess of weight was thrown upon the hooks on one side, by which one of them was broken, and almost at the same instant all the hooks gave way, either breaking or bending open, and the machine was allowed to fall about fifteen feet. The weight of the falling mass was about 90,000 lbs., but part of this, about 28,000 lbs., was counterbalanced by twelve weights attached to it by chains passing over pulleys. The gravitating force being about 62,000 lbs. acting upon a mass of 118,000 lbs. The damage to the machine was inconsiderable, and no person received any injury, although nearly a hundred men were at work around and within it. The gasholder, of which this is part, is believed to be the largest in the world; its diameter is 140 feet, height 70 feet, and capacity over a million cubic feet.

The weight of iron used in its construction is 330,000 lbs., chiefly sheet and bar. The guide frame contains over a million pounds of cast iron; it is composed of 144 columns arranged in twelve stands or groups placed all around the tank; each group consists of four tiers of columns and entablatures, the lower tier fashioned after the Tuscan order, the second Doric, the third Ionic, and the upper Corinthian. The cost of the entire structure, including the excavation and walling of the tank, is about \$85,000, which is about \$40,000 less than the cost of an equal quantity of gas store room in gasholders of the usual capacity, say 200,000 cubic feet.

The pending nominations were read.

Stated Meeting, November 1.

Present, thirteen members.

Dr. FRANKLIN BACHE, Vice-President, in the Chair.

Letters were read:—

From the Royal Society of Edinburgh, dated Edinburgh, 20th December, 1848, acknowledging the receipt of Vol. IX. Part 3, of the Transactions, and No. 34, of the Proceedings of this Society, and announcing a donation to the Society:—

From the same, dated Edinburgh Royal Society's Apart-